

HEROES OF THE FAITH

MOSES: Purification After Childbirth

Chapter 12

12 October 2022



➤ God spoke to Moses... (vv. 1-8)

❖ The rules for giving birth.

☐ Males (v. 2)

- The mother would be unclean for seven-days.
- As during menstruation, her loss of blood signified she was incomplete and unclean.

☐ Females (v. 5)

- The mother would be unclean for 14-days.
- As during menstruation, her loss of blood signified she was incomplete and unclean.

❖ On the eighth day, parents circumcised their son's foreskin. (v. 3)

☐ God instituted circumcision with the family of Abraham.

- Genesis 17:12-14; Luke 1:59; Luke 2:22
- Infant circumcision in antiquity seems to be peculiar to Israel.
- Circumcision also had spiritual significance.
 - Deuteronomy 10:16: Israel needed to change its heart condition before God.
Removing the stubbornness from properly loving God.
 - Jeremiah 4:4: The heart symbolizes the totality of one's will & emotions.
Loving God with all one's heart is the essence of faith.
 - Deuteronomy 6:5-9: Disciples of God loved God. He was life to them.
True disciples taught their children to live for God, as well.
 - Romans 2:29: True Jewishness & circumcision are matters of the heart.
"...by the Spirit..." = Demonstrates one's obedience to God.

❖ Three steps were required to move a woman from defilement to purity.

1. The child's gender drove the period of uncleanness.
2. For male children, her purification was extended another 33-days. (v. 4)
 - She could not touch anything holy.
 - She could not enter the sanctuary until after her purification period.
3. For female children, her purification was extended another 66-days. (v. 5)
 - As with male children, the same rules and restrictions applied.



- ✓ NOTE: It is not clear why the time of seclusion and uncleanness is doubled for a female child.
- ✓ Psalm 58:3: The child is a sinner. Born with a sinful nature, wicked, & estranged.

❖ Worship and restoration (vv. 6-8)

- ❑ After the birth of the child, & the appropriate purifying period, she was able to publicly worship God again at the tabernacle. (v. 6)
 - She would bring a year-old lamb for a burnt offering.
 - Leviticus 1
 - This was an atonement (reconciliation) offering.
 - The worshiper would give her best (without blemish) to the LORD.
 - She would bring a pigeon, or turtledove, for a sin offering.
 - Leviticus 4
 - This offering was given to restore one's relationship with God.
 - Romans 3:23
 - Life had to be taken, blood had to be spilled, for one to be in a cleansed, right relationship with God.
- ❑ Once the priest made these offerings to the LORD, she was clean once more. (v. 7)
 - Clean from the flow of her blood.
 - Clean from the birth of her child - either male or female.
- ❑ Regardless of one's social level – poverty to wealthy – God had a standard in place. (v. 8)
 - The family would go to the tabernacle (OT) / temple (NT) with their offering.
 - The priest would make atonement for her.
 - Obedience, love, worship led to restoration.



Group Questions

- 1) As a child of God, one has an unshakeable responsibility to place God first in his life. Read 1 Corinthians 10:31. Look carefully at the elements – life, blood, death (vv. 6-8) – provided to restore a woman’s relationship with God. Discuss how God demanded proper worship for the woman after childbirth. Discuss God’s demand for proper worship in all stages of life (Colossians 3:17).

- 2) Review Genesis 3:1-6. Man and woman sought to find goodness and wisdom apart from God. They misplaced their worship to God - sin. Because of man’s choice in the garden, man’s nature is irrevocably flawed. Read Psalm 58:3 and Romans 3:23. Discuss the power of the sacrificial system (chapters 1-7) and how it points to Jesus’ work on the cross.

- 3) God connected a woman’s uncleanness from menstruation with childbirth. The new mother needed purification. God defined what that entailed for both a male and female child. She needed atonement (vv. 6-8; 15:30). Again, note the cost of atonement. Sin has a price. Discuss it.

